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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK09//

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TO GOMPERT/BREMER FOR THE SECRETARY

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TOP SECRET SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD VIA BLACK PATCH WH42878

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

CONTAINS CODEWORD OCTOBER 23, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS: EMBASSY ROME REPORTS THAT A STORMY PSI DIRECTORATE MEETING CONCLUDED LATE TODAY WITH UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF A REPLY TO FANFANI REAFFIRMING PSI POSITIONS, ESPECIALLY ON RELATIONS WITH LABOR UNIONS. FANFANI REPORTEDLY IS NOW MEETING WITH HIS OWN PARTY, AND IS EXPECTED TO PROCEED TO PRESIDENT LEONE, PERHAPS TONIGHT, TO REPORT FAILURE TO FORM A FOUR-PARTY CENTER-LEFT GOVERNMENT.

SYRIAN PROPOSAL FOR A UNIFIED MILITARY COMMAND: PRESS REPORTS THAT SYRIA TODAY PROPOSED TO THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIFIED MILITARY COMMAND TO PREPARE SYRIA, JORDAN, AND THE PLO FOR POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF FIGHTING AGAINST ISRAEL, DELEGATION SOURCES SAID. SYRIA SAID THE COMMAND SHOULD INCLUDE EGYPT AND THE PLO, AND SYRIA ITSELF. THE SOURCES QUOTED SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ABDEL KHADDAM AS ASK

RG HIS FELLOW FOREIGN MINISTERS "NOT TO RELY ON THE PROMISES MADE TO US BY THE UNITED STATES." KHADDAM SAID YOUR PEACEMAKING EFFORTS HAVE NOT PRODUCED ANY SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS SO FAR, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES.

EXILE OF PAPADOPOULOS: THE ARREST AND EXILE OF EX-PRESIDENT PAPADOPOULOS AND OTHER LEADERS OF THE 1967 MILITARY COUP ARE DESIGNED TO SATISFY PUBLIC SENTIMENT THAT JUSTICE SHOULD BE DONE AND LEADING PERSONALITIES OF THE EX-JUNTA PUNISHED. THIS HAS BECOME A MAJOR ELECTION ISSUE. THE DEPORTATION TO A NEARBY ISLAND IN THE AEGEAN IS REPORTEDLY TO ALLOW THEIR EASY ACCESS TO ATHENS FOR TRIAL. PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS MAY ALSO BE REACTING TO REPORTS THAT PAPADOPOULOS AND OTHER EX-JUNTA MEMBERS WERE PLANNING TO FORM A POLITICAL PARTY; PAPADOPOULOS HK HAS BEEN UNDER HOUSE ARREST FOR SOME TIME.

CHARGES HAVE ALSO BEEN BROUGHT AGAINST GREEK STRONGMAN IOANNIDIS WHO IS NOW UNDER INVESTIGATION. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT PAPADOPOULOS WAS CONSPIRING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, AS CHARGED. HIS ARREST IS UNLIKELY TO CREATE A

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STRONG REACTION IN THE ARMY. A MOVE AGAINST IOANNIDIS WOULD BE MORE SENSITIVE AS THERE ARE REPORTEDLY STILL SOME IOANNIDIS SUPPORTERS IN THE ARMY. HOWEVER, POTENTIAL COUP PLOTTERS IN THE ARMY SEEM TO BE STILL TAKING A WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT.

TURKISH OIL EXPLORATION IN AEGEAN: TURKEY'S DECISION TO RENEW OIL EXPLORATION IN THE AEGEAN MAY REVIVE THE DORMANT AEGEAN SEABEDS DISPUTE. A TURKISH OFFICIAL ANNOUNCED ON OCTOBER 21 THAT CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN SIGNED WITH NORWEGIAN AND DANISH COMPANIES TO CONDUCT SEISMIC SURVEYS IN THE AEGEAN SEA. THE CONTRACTS REPORTEDLY CALL FOR EXPLORATION TO BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT THEY PROBABLY WILL NOT GET UNDERWAY UNTIL LATE NOVEMBER. TURKEY'S ANNOUNCED INTENTION OF RENEWING OIL EXPLORATION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY REFOCUS BOTH COUNTRIES' ATTENTION ON THE DISPUTE. WHILE A SERIOUS TURKISH-GREEK CONFRONTATION OVER THE SEABEDS REMAINS A POSSIBILITY, TURKEY HAS EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ISSUE AT ANY TIME.

JAPAN SAID TO AGREE TO PARE OIL IMPORTS: JAPAN IS IN AGREEMENT WITH A U.S. PROPOSAL TO REDUCE OIL IMPORTS BY TEN PERCENT.

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A JAPANESE DECISION COULD BE ANNOUNCED WITHIN A MONTH OR SO, ALTHOUGH THEY MAY IN THE END DECIDE TO AVOID PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE SUBJECT. JAPANESE WILLINGNESS TO CUT BACK IMPORTS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY INVOLVE HARDSHIP. HIGH OIL PRICES AND JAPAN'S ECONOMIC SLUMP ARE ALREADY CUTTING INTO OIL CONSUMPTION. OIL USE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF THIS YEAR WILL BE AS MUCH AS 15 PERCENT BELOW THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1973. ANOTHER DECLINE IS LIKELY NEXT YEAR.

THE WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS: HENRY BRADSHAW REPORTS THAT IN THE FOUR COUNTRIES THAT ARE UNDER DIRECT OR INDIRECT MILITARY PRESSURE FROM NORTH VIETNAM, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE UNABLE TO SEE ANY SLACKENING OF THE COMMUNIST THREAT SINCE THE PARIS AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED 21 MONTHS AGO.

A STAR EDITORIAL ON "AN HISTORIC UNDERSTANDING" SAYS THERE IS UNUSUAL CAUSE FOR SATISFACTION IN THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED BETWEEN THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND TWO BRANCHES OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ON TRADE AND EMIGRATION. THE RESULT SHOULD BE SPEEDY ENACTMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S TRADE BILL -- STALLED IN CONGRESS FOR TWO YEARS BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION TO SOVIET EMIGRATION POLICIES.

J.F. TERHORST, WRITING ON THE TRADE BILL COMPROMISE, SAYS THAT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PRESIDENT NAMED NIXON AND ONE NAMED

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FORD IS EQUAL TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN OLD STALEMATE AND THE NEW SOVIET AGREEMENT TO EASE JEWISH EMIGRATION. THE UPSHOT IS THAT THE NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE HAS SCORED A SIGNIFICANT DIPLOMATIC VICTORY, ONE THAT WILL NOT GO UNNOTICED AROUND THE WORLD. ANDREW BOROWIEC REPORTS THAT, AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF POLITICAL STALEMATE AND CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, THE TURKISH ADMINISTRATION IS TAKING ROOT IN NORTHERN CYPRUS. THE PERMANENCE OF TURKISH PRESENCE SEEMS MOST STRIKING IN KYRENIA.

RICHARD HALLORAN REPORTS THAT PREMIER TANAKA HAS CONFIRMED THAT HE HAS CONTINUED HIS PRIVATE BUSINESS ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT HIS 27 YEAR POLITICAL CAREER. HE DID NOT DENY IN A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY ANY OF THE FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES THAT HAVE BEEN ALLEGED AGAINST HIM.

KENNETH FREED REPORTS THE U.S. THREATENED TO SEND AIRBORNE TROOPS INTO THE SINAI PENINSULA DURING THE 1973 ARAB-ISRAELI WAR IF THE SOVIET UNION INTERVENED MILITARILY IN THE CONFLICT, ACCORDING TO PROFESSOR HANS MORGANTHAU. THE ASSERTIONS, MADE YESTERDAY TO A GROUP OF REPORTERS SPECIALIZING IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WAS IMMEDIATELY DENIED BY HIGH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.

JEREMIAH O'LEARY REPORTS THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TODAY BARRED STROBE TALBOTT, WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT FOR TIME, ON YOUR PLANE FROM ENTERING THE SOVIET UNION. O'LEARY REPORTS THAT YOU APOLOGIZED TO TALBOTT JUST BEFORE LANDING IN COPENHAGEN SAYING YOU HAD MADE THREE UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO PERSUADE SOVIET AUTHORITIES "AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL" TO GIVE THE CORRESPONDENT A VISA.

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